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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/623,166

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Daniel C. Castle

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EXAMINER

WILLS, LAWRENCE E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/24/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/623,166	Applicant(s) CASTLE, DANIEL C.	
	Examiner LAWRENCE E. WILLS	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-22,24 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4-22, 24-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/18/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kane (U.S. Patent 6,112,014) in view of Casey (U.S Patent 6,452,695) and in further view of Berkema et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0002072).

Regarding claim 1, Kane teaches a photocopier (number 10 in Figure 1) configured to host at least one external output device, (i.e., see output port in column 4, line 31, and number 52 in Figure 4) the photocopier comprising: an integrated imaging device (number 20 in Figure 1) configured to provide a first signal corresponding to an image; (i.e. see scanning means in column 3, lines 63-66) an integrated output device

(number 40 in Figure 1 and see printing means in column 3, lines 63-66)); at least one output port (number 52 in Figure 4) configured to electrically couple to the at least one external output device; (i.e. see output port in column 4, lines 31-34) and an image data switching unit (number 60) configured to selectively switch a second signal corresponding to the image between the integrated output device and the at least one output port; (i.e. see selection means in column 4, lines 45-49).

Kane does not teach a controller to electrically couple to a peripheral device external to and separate from the photocopier, the controller to receive image data from the peripheral device, the image data preformatted for the at least one external output device, the controller further to transmit the image data received from the peripheral device to the at least one external output device, the at least one external output device printing the image data.

However, Casey does teach a controller (number 120 in Fig. 2) to electrically couple to a peripheral device, (number 300 in Fig. 1), external to and separate from the photocopier, (i.e. see I/O controller in column 3, lines 40-44), the controller to receive image data from the peripheral device, (i.e. see exchange of information in column 3, line 51) the controller further to transmit the image data received from the peripheral device to the at least one external output device, the at least one external output device printing the image data, (i.e. see printed by printer in column 2, lines 65-67).

The combination of Kane and Casey fail to teach the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one

external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device.

However, Berkema teaches the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device, (print data is preferably preformatted for the particular capabilities of the print device, paragraph 0055).

At the time when the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the controller taught by the Casey reference with the photocopier taught by the Kane reference. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to increase the flexibility of normal multi-function devices, (i.e. see column 1, lines 46-56 in Casey reference). In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Casey and Kane reference with the Berkema reference because the use of preformatted data in a printing system would have been an obvious improvement at the time of the invention. The use of preformatted data would have allowed the system to be faster and increase throughput of print data.

Regarding claim 2, Kane teaches the integrated imaging device comprises a scanner configured to obtain the image by optically scanning an object, (i.e. see scanning means in column 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 4, Kane teaches wherein the integrated output device (i.e. printing means in column 4, lines 19-23) and the at least one external output device are each selected from a group comprising a copier output system, a laser printer, an inkjet printer and a dot matrix printer, (i.e. other sources in column 4, lines 25-28).

Regarding claim 5, Casey teaches a photocopier further comprising a user interface (number 110 in Fig.2) configured to select at least one output characteristic, (i.e. control panel in column 3, lines 34-39).

Regarding claim 6, Kane teaches the photocopier wherein the controller (memory controller in Fig. 5) is electrically coupled to the integrated imaging device (number 20 in Fig. 5), the integrated output device (number 40 in Fig.5) and the image data switching unit (I/O Logic in Fig. 5), and the controller is configured to convert the first signal to the second signal and to selectively switch the image data switching unit, (i.e. selection means in column 4, lines 45-49).

Regarding claim 7, Kane teaches the photocopier wherein the controller (memory controller) comprises a processor (CPU in Fig. 5) and a memory device, (RAM and ROM Firmware in Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 8, Kane teaches the photocopier wherein the controller is further configured to selectively transmit the first signal and the second signal to the peripheral device (Optical ROM or Floppy Disk in Fig. 5); and selectively receive the first signal and the second signal from the peripheral device, (i.e. see transmitting means in column 4, lines 34-44 or storage means in column 4, lines 5-9)

Regarding claim 19, Kane teaches an image processing system comprising: a host device comprising: an output port, (number 52 in Fig.5 and see output port in column 4, lines 31-34); a first means for printing, (number 40 in Fig. 1, and see printing means in column 3, lines 63-66); and a switching means for selectively passing image data to the output port and the first means for printing, (i.e. selection means in column 4, lines 45-49); a second means for printing, wherein the second means for printing is electrically attachable to the output port of the host device and is external to the host device, (i.e. see outside sources in column 4, lines 31-34); and wherein the switching means is further for receiving the image data from the peripheral device means, (i.e. receiving of facsimile or modem sent message in column 4, lines 39-43) and for printing the image data received from the peripheral device means to the second means for printing, (i.e. selection means in column 4 lines 45-49), the second means for printing then printing the image data, (i.e. outside source in column 4, lines 23-33).

Kane does not teach a peripheral device means external to and separate from the host device, the peripheral device means electrically coupled to the host device, the peripheral device means for storing image data preformatted for the second means.

However, Casey does teach a peripheral device (number 300 in Fig. 1) means external to and separate from the host device, (i.e. see I/O controller in column 3, lines 40-44), the peripheral device (number 300 in Fig. 1) means electrically coupled to the host device (number 100 in Fig. 1 which clearly shows the connection between the image input device and adapter device) , the peripheral device means for storing image data (i.e. other device in column 2, line 60) preformatted for the second means, (i.e. corresponding print data in column 4, lines 22-25).

The combination of Kane and Casey fail to teach the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device.

However, Berkema teaches the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device, (print data is preferably preformatted for the particular capabilities of the print device, paragraph 0055).

At the time when the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the controller taught by the Casey reference with the photocopier taught by the Kane reference. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to increase the flexibility of normal multi-function devices, (i.e. see

column 1, lines 46-56 in Casey reference). In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Casey and Kane reference with the Berkema reference because the use of preformatted data in a printing system would have been an obvious improvement at the time of the invention. The use of preformatted data would have allowed the system to be faster and increase throughput of print data.

Regarding claim 20, Kane teaches the image processing system wherein the host device further comprises an imaging means for providing a first electrical signal, wherein the first electrical signal is representative of an image, (i.e. scanning means in column 4, lines 3-5).

Regarding claim 21, Casey teaches the image processing system, wherein the host device further comprises a processing means (number 140 in Fig. 2) for converting the first electrical signal into a second electrical signal configured to be processed by at least one of the first means for printing and the second means for printing, (i.e. step 640 in Fig.4 and column 6, lines 61-65)

Regarding claim 22, Casey teaches the image processing system wherein the host device further comprises an interface means (number 11 in Fig. 2) for entering

parameters used to control the switching means, (i.e. control panel in column 3, lines 34-39).

4. Claims 9-18 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiura (U.S. Patent No. 5, 854,693) in view of Casey (U.S Patent 6,452,695).

Regarding claim 9, Yoshiura teaches method for copying a document using an image processing system including an integrated imaging device (i.e. scanner section 31 in column 9, lines 20-25), an integrated output device (i.e. laser printer section 32 in column 9, lines 20-25) and at least one external output device (i.e. see transmission apparatus that allows transmitting and receiving image data from an outside device in column 3, lines 21-25), the method comprising: determining an output path based upon at least one output characteristic, (i.e. see performing the requested image processing function based on the function data in column 4, lines 43-50); producing a first signal corresponding to an image of the document, (i.e. see original image information (image data) in column 9, lines 54-67); converting the first signal to a second signal, (i.e. see processed image data in column 4, lines 6-10); and directing the second signal to the output path, (i.e. see returned processed image data and outputted by image recording section in column 4, lines 61-66)

Yoshiura does not teach receiving image data from a peripheral device external to and separate from the image processing system, the image data preformatted for the external output device, the peripheral device being a storage device without printing

capability and without telecommunications capability; and, transmitting the image data received from the peripheral device to the external output device, the external output device printing the image data.

Casey teaches the method of receiving image data from a peripheral device external to and separate from the image processing system (i.e. see I/O controller in column 3, lines 40-44), the peripheral device being a storage device without printing capability and without telecommunications capability, (i.e. other device in column 2, line 60); and, transmitting the image data received from the peripheral device to the external output device, the external output device printing the image data, , (i.e. see printed by printer in column 2, lines 65-67).

The combination of Yoshiura and Casey fail to teach the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device.

However, Berkema teaches the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device, (print data is preferably preformatted for the particular capabilities of the print device, paragraph 0055).

At the time when the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the controller taught by the Casey reference with the photocopier taught by the Yoshiura reference. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to increase the flexibility of normal multi-function devices, (i.e. see column 1, lines 46-56 in Casey reference). In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Casey and Yoshiura reference with the Berkema reference because the use of preformatted data in a printing system would have been an obvious improvement at the time of the invention. The use of preformatted data would have allowed the system to be faster and increase throughput of print data.

Regarding claim 10, Yoshiura teaches the method wherein determining the output path comprises: selecting the at least one output characteristic, (i.e. operator inputs in column 20, line 27); and comparing the at least one output characteristic to the functionality of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device, (i.e. PCU selects in column 20, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 11, Yoshiura teaches the method further comprising defining the output path to include at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device such that the output path provides the at least one output characteristic, (i.e. PCU selects in column 20, lines 22-25).

Regarding claim 12, Yoshiura teaches the method further comprising configuring the integrated imaging device and the at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device included in the output path to provide the at least one output characteristic, (i.e. transmitted image data in column 20, lines 44-46).

Regarding claim 13, Yoshiura teaches the method wherein selecting the at least one output characteristic comprises specifying a characteristic selected from the group comprising copying speed, output media size, output media weight, output media color, output media material, output font, output color, output color resolution, copying resolution, and printing resolution, (i.e. sharpness, viewed as a printing resolution, in column 19, line 66 – column 20 line 18).

Regarding claim 14, Yoshiura teaches the method wherein producing the first signal comprises: optically scanning the document with the integrated imaging device to produce an image of the document; and converting the image to a digital signal, (i.e. electric image signal in column 9, lines 54-67).

Regarding claim 15, Casey teaches the method wherein converting the first signal to the second signal comprises processing the first signal using printer driver software compatible with at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device, (i.e. generate print data in column 4, lines 60-64).

Regarding claim 16, Yoshiura teaches the method wherein directing the second signal to the output path comprises routing the second signal to at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device, (i.e. image data transmitted in column 20, lines 33-46).

Regarding claim 17, Yoshiura teaches the method further comprising printing a portion of the second signal with the at least one of the integrated output device and the at least one external output device, (i.e. distributed to the digital copying machines in column 20, lines 33-46).

Regarding claim 18, Yoshiura teaches the method wherein directing the second signal to the output path comprises routing the second signal to the peripheral device, (i.e. image data transmitted in column 20, lines 33-46)..

Regarding claim 24, Yoshiura teaches computer readable media including computer executable instructions for performing, in relation to a photocopier: selecting at least one output characteristic for a copy job; (i.e. inputting an instruction in column 4, lines 42-45) comparing the functionality of a plurality of output paths to the selected at least one output characteristic; (i.e. see performing the requested image processing function based on the function data in column 4, lines 43-50); and directing at least a portion of the copy job output to an external output device, (i.e. see returned processed image data and outputted by image recording section in column 4, lines 61-66).

Yoshiura does not teach receiving image data from a peripheral device external to and separate from the image processing system, the image data preformatted for the external output device, the peripheral device being a storage device without printing capability and without telecommunications capability; and, transmitting the image data received from the peripheral device to the external output device, the external output device printing the image data.

Casey teaches the method of receiving image data from a peripheral device external to and separate from the image processing system (i.e. see I/O controller in column 3, lines 40-44), the peripheral device being a storage device without printing capability and without telecommunications capability, (i.e. other device in column 2, line 60); and, transmitting the image data received from the peripheral device to the external output device, the external output device printing the image data, , (i.e. see printed by printer in column 2, lines 65-67).

The combination of Yoshiura and Casey fail to teach the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device.

However, Berkema teaches the image data as received from the peripheral device being preformatted for the at least one external output device instead of the image data having to be formatted by the controller for the at least one external output device after the controller receives the image data from the peripheral device, (print

data is preferably preformatted for the particular capabilities of the print device, paragraph 0055).

At the time when the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the controller taught by the Casey reference with the photocopier taught by the Yoshiura reference. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to increase the flexibility of normal multi-function devices, (i.e. see column 1, lines 46-56 in Casey reference). In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Casey and Yoshiura reference with the Berkema reference because the use of preformatted data in a printing system would have been an obvious improvement at the time of the invention. The use of preformatted data would have allowed the system to be faster and increase throughput of print data.

Regarding claim 25, Yoshiura teaches the computer readable media, wherein selecting the at least one output characteristic comprises specifying a characteristic selected from a group comprising copying speed, output media size, output media weight, output media color, output media material, output font, output color resolution, optical resolution, and printing resolution, (i.e. sharpness, viewed as a printing resolution, in column 19, line 66 – column 20 line 18).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAWRENCE E. WILLS whose telephone number is (571)270-3145. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

LEW
March 17, 2008